

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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In the Matter of:

2012 FEB 10 P 1:12

Parlin, Co 81239
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No. A2012-102

Judith Ebaugh, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Parlin post office. The Final Determination was posted Dec 9, 2011.
(date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

see attached letter

January 30, 2012
Docket No. A2012-102

To: U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission

RE: Appeal of the USPS's determination to close the Parlin Post Office, Parlin Colorado.

Dear Commissioners,

This participant statement does not meet your January 26th deadline as I did not receive your notice until Saturday January 28th 2012. You mailed it January 25th making it impossible for me to meet a deadline of one day later. My request for appeal was sent December 23rd 2011.

Although we received this final determination package in mid December, after following the lengthy closure procedure, I believe the decision to close was made in June 2009. At that time the Parlin Postmaster was called into OIC at a nearby Post Office with a higher designation. After a very short time (compared to normal USPS procedure) he became Postmaster there. I now believe this was a very purposeful way to eliminate the position in Parlin. The job has never been posted due to the "hiring freeze". This is how Parlin got on the first list for closure. The two other Post Offices in the area, though less popular, centrally located, with out routes, and with much quieter community meetings, attendance, or outcry, were taken off the closure list in short order, they have permanent Postmasters. I find this very unfair. The OIC in Parlin should be made Postmaster and the office should stay open. The salary for a clerk is more than for a P.M., the Gunnison office obviously doesn't need her (overstaffed) and after two and a half years she deserves the job.

The paperwork contained in the closure package is skewed toward closure reflecting the capricious, careless, and even untruthful attitude of the Postal Service. It starts out talking about a Post Office in Wyoming, and takes it from there. The numbers are incorrect, the question and concerns voiced at the community meeting are limited compared to what actually took place or even out right untrue.

Parlin serves 119 customers not the 61 in your paperwork, 55 people attended the meeting not the 39 in your paperwork. I know more than 25 questionnaires were returned and even your paperwork actually added up to 41. Please read comment in final determination package and news paper article enclosed. There are 20 boxes in Parlin, 10 deliveries for the Highway 50, County Road 44 & 43 routes, 22 for County Road 76, and 67 for the Ohio City NBU – Pitkin's mail is also delivered by the route. The revenue for this year is up. Saying the OIC works 8 minutes a day is absurd.

The economic savings for the USPS would be minimal. The OIC is already a career employee and will still receive her full clerk salary and benefits. Actually hiring a Postmaster would have saved the Postal Service money as they make less than a clerk. The building rents for \$450 a month including utilities. This is a minimal amount and less than will be paid for the doubling of the HCR route driver, approximately \$15,000 per year. All the rural post offices in America account for only .07% of the USPS budget.

Before our community meeting even started the postal representatives asked to make it short as they had a long drive home. Marcella went over the closure procedure. The reps delivered their message (and answered most concerns the same way): service

will not be affected; use the internet, the route driver will take care of it. Then our comments for close to an hour and a half when we finally realized we weren't being heard. We all came away seeing that the reps were only there to deliver their message and could care less about what we said. I personally asked, "Are you writing this down?" the rep held up a legal pad with about four sentences scrawled across it. The determination package comment and response reflects this lack of attention. Most of us in attendance chose to write our congressmen instead of relying on these USPS reps. (see enclosed sample letters).

The main concerns were:

Why must we drive 40 miles to a Post Office? The traffic flow prohibits the use of the Pitkin PO. The ice and snow in winter especially limits using the up valley Post Office – many customers are elderly and simply refuse to go up the winding road with significantly higher elevation.

Why our Post Office and not Serghents or Pitkin? At the time they weren't even being considered for closure and since have been removed from the list. Out of the three, Parlin is the most centrally located, serve the biggest area, has 2 routes, and is the oldest and most established historical transport place in the area.

Don't they know we've already lost one Post Office? Ohio City contract Post Office closed in 2001.

We have established business' that need to use the P.O. immediately, not after waiting for the driver or driving 40 miles.

What if I'm not home, what if a package doesn't fit in a locker?

If the total cost of all Post Offices in America cost the USPS .07% of its budget why are you doing it?

I thought the Postal Service was based on service not profit.

Why don't we have a permanent Postmaster? Many thought the OIC was permanent; she's been there so long.

Why not stop Saturday delivery?

Why not shorten the hours?

Why not put stamps at \$.50, packages at \$5 instead of \$4.95?

Most question and concerns went unanswered, they were just the messengers. So we wrote to congressmen Bennett and Udall, who seem to agree that this closure should be appealed.

I hope you can see the closure procedure was not followed in a truthful or respectful way.

Please reconsider this closure; the Parlin P.O. really is the heart of our rural community.

Thank you,

Judith Ebaugh
P O Box 95
Pitkin, CO 81241

Date of Posting: 12/09/2011

Date of Removal: 01/10/2012

Docket # A2012-102

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
THE PARLIN, CO POST OFFICE
AND EXTEND
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE

To be reviewed by P.R.C.

Parlin PO eyed for closure

'Study' to determine whether site should be shuttered

Will Shoemaker
Times Staff Writer

Amidst a shaky financial climate for the United States Postal Service (USPS), one local post office is being eyed for closure.

Less mail volume and a hiring freeze in recent years has resulted in a "discontinuance study" for Parlin's historic office 12 miles east of Gunnison.

A meeting that involved USPS officials from Denver was held in Ohio City last Wednesday, attended by more than 55 community members. The post office is housed in the same building as the office for the QT Cabins and General Store, at the intersection of Hwy. 50 and County Road 76.

"It's been a transfer point for 131 years and it still is," said Ohio City resident Ruth Dolezal.

But closure is not a done deal



Former Parlin Postmaster Chuck Glaze peruses a newspaper in the entryway of the post office east of Gunnison, which is being studied for possible closure due in part to a decline in mail volume.

Photo by Will Shoemaker

just yet. A lengthy process for considering changes, followed by possible appeal, has commenced.

Marcela Rivera, consumer

affairs manager with the USPS in Denver, said that a questionnaire

Parlin A12

Parlin

► from page A1

has been sent out to impacted members of the community.

"I have to say that there's been a very high volume of responses," she said.

After local feedback has been gathered, a proposal for changes will be submitted to postal headquarters in Washington, D.C., where a final determination will be made.

"It may be no change at all, a change in hours, decreased days of service, or that the post office is discontinued," Rivera said.

After the final determination, customers have 30 days to appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission. That group has 120 days to consider appeals and potentially reverse a decision.

"I think there's a lot of things that point to the fact that this is something they really need to do," Leon Oltmann, who lives between Parlin and Ohio City, said of a closure.

Citizens are reaching out to legislators to try to convince them otherwise.

Rivera said that two factors led to the management-initiated decision to study the closure of Parlin's post office.

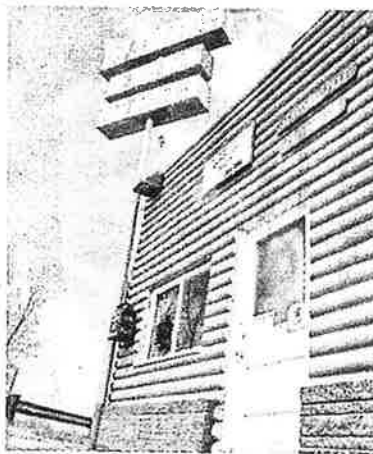
For one, it does not have a career postmaster. Sherri Cleveland is currently the officer in charge.

But USPS has implemented a hiring freeze for permanent career employees in recent years, Rivera said, and for that reason Parlin has been without a postmaster.

Also, the office has shown a decrease in work volume — or mail volume — though Rivera couldn't speak to specifics.

She noted that, throughout the organization, over the last three years a 20 percent decrease in volume has been seen nationwide. Last year, USPS experienced an \$8.5 billion deficit and is looking at a projected \$6 billion deficit this year, said Rivera.

"We're seeing that a lot of our customers are already going to



The Parlin post office

alternate methods of mailing," she said of Parlin. "It seems like you have a lot of business owners or people who are there part-time."

Rivera said that eight offices of 600 in the district are currently being studied for discontinuance.

"This post office's discontinuance study is not the only measure this agency is taking to remain viable," she said. "Because of the economic downturn, the number of offices being studied has escalated."

Rivera noted that there's a proposal before Congress to cease Saturday deliveries nationwide.

Still, Quartz Creek Valley residents are putting up a fight to see that another of their post offices isn't shuttered. Ohio City's post office was discontinued in 2001.

Dolezal and her husband Larry have spent more than \$8,000 at the Parlin post office in the last six years just on packages they send to military troops overseas.

"We've got businesses up here that depend on the post office to mail their packages," she said.

Former Pitkin Postmaster (1985-2006) Chuck Glaze was hanging around the post office Tuesday, reading a newspaper and reminiscing about the historical significance of the establishment.

"It would take us off the map, basically," he said. "It's a shame, the whole thing."

(Will Shoemaker can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or will@gunnisontimes.com)



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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION 2012 FEB 10 P 1:12
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Office of the Secretary

January 23, 2012

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Judith Ebaugh
P.O. Box 95
Pitkin, CO 81241

Re: Appeal of the Postal Service's Determination to Close the Parlin Post Office,
Parlin, Colorado

Dear Ms. Ebaugh:

The Postal Regulatory Commission received your appeal regarding the Postal Service's determination to close the Parlin post office, Parlin, Colorado. Your appeal has been assigned Docket No. A2012-102.

A copy of Commission Form 61 is enclosed. You may complete Form 61 or file a brief to provide the Commission with arguments to support your appeal. See 39 CFR 3001.115. The deadline for submission of your arguments is January 26, 2012.

Sincerely,

Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary



Enclosure

Did not receive this
until Saturday 1/27/12
January 28



U.S. POSTAL
REGULATORY
COMMISSION

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Washington, DC 20268-0001



US OFFICIAL MAIL >> PENALTY FOR
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000488693 JAN. 25. 2012

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